

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
/077 W

-----119910 181224Z /45

R 171130Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4966

UNCLAS ROME 15045

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 1165): N/A
TAGS: PPFOR, XH, VT
SUBJ: POPE'S FUNERAL: ADDRESS TO FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

RF : ROME 14940

1. THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS WAS MADE BY CARDINAL CARLO CONFALONIERI, DEAN OF THE SACRED COLLEGE OF CARDINALS, AT THE VATICAN CEREMONY, AUGUST 13, FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE SACRED COLLEGE BY FOREIGN DELEGATIONS TO THE FUNERAL OF POPE PAUL VI, WHICH INCLUDED THE U.S. DELEGATION HEADED BY FIRST LADY ROSALYNN CARTER.

QUOTE YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HAVING HEARD THE GREETINGS AND THE PERSONAL CONDOLENCES OF EACH OF YOUR DELEGATIONS, I WISH, IN THE NAME OF MY BROTHERS OF THE SACRED COLLEGE, TO EXPRESS TO EACH OF YOU TOGETHER WHAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXPRESS TO EACH OF YOU INDIVIDUALLY. BY YOUR PRESENCE YESTERDAY EVENING AT THE FUNERAL OF OUR SOVEREIGN PONTIFF, WHOM WE MOURN, YOU CAME TO PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO THAT GREAT POPE, THE RESPECTS OF YOUR COUNTRIES OR THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT YOU REPRESENT, WITNESSING YOUR SYMPATHY AND SHARING IN THE GRIEF OF THE HOLY SEE AND OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. WE ARE DEEPLY TOUCHED. AND WE EXPRESS TO YOU OUR DEEP
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APPRECIATION, WHICH YOU IN TURN MIGHT EXPRESS AS WELL TO THE AUTHORITIES WHOM YOU REPRESENT.

WE KNOW THE RESPECT THAT YOU FELT FOR IS HOLINESS, POPE PAUL VI, BECAUSE OF HIS OPENNESS TO THE GREAT PROBLEMS OF OUR TIMES, HIS DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR MISSION, HIS UNLIMITED EFFORTS FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND LEARNING AMONG PEOPLES. HE NEVER ACCEPTED MISERY, INJUSTICE OR VIOLENCE, EVEN LESS SO IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES

THAT DEGRADED MORALITY, NOR IN ATHEISM. HE WAS A GREAT CREDIT TO MANKIND: PRESUMING THE GOOD WILL OF THOSE WHOM HE DEALT WITH, IMPLOING FOR THEM THE GRACE OF GOD; HE THOUGHT THEM ABLE TO FAC THE SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF OUR TIME, RMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE CREATOR'S DESIGN. FOR THOSE WHO WISHED TO FOCUS CONSIDERATION ONLY ON THIS ASPECT, HE PARTICIPATED AS A MEMBER OF TH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. BUT IN FACT, HE SPOKE AND INTERVENED ALSO AND IMMEDIATELY AS A MAN OF GOD, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF MILLIONS OF FAITHFULCATHOLICS, EXPRESSING THE EXPERIENCES OF THE CHURCH. HE DID THIS, MINDFUL OF YOUR COMPETENCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES,

BUT HIS ROLE WAS INDEED THAT FAVORING STIRRING UP OF CONSCIENCE AMONG SOULS AND IN PUBLIC OPINION. BRIEFLY, HE WISHD TO ACT AS A WITNESS OF THE GOEPEL.

WE THANK YOU FOR THE RESPECT FOR AND CONFIDENCE IN HIS PERSON THAT YOU YOURSELVES, YOUR GOVERNMENTS, YOUR INSTITUTIONS, YOUR FELLOW-CITIZENS HAVE SHOWN. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE INTEREST EXPRESSED IN HIS MESSAGES. THANK YOU, TODAY, FOR YOUR SYMPATHY WHICH IS A COMFORT TO US. WE THANK YOU FOR THE FIDELITY THAT YOU WILL MAINTAIN FOR THE SUCCESSOR OF PAUL VI, TO THE HOLY SEE AND TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE PEOPLE BY INSPIRING THEM THROUGH THE GOSPEL AND THE EXAMPLE OF OUR BELOVED PONTIFF. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: THE PRESENCE OF DELEGATIONS FROM 101 COUNTRIES AND EIGHT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AT THE STATE FUNERAL AUGUST UNCLASSIFIED

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12 AND PARTICULARRLY THE CONDOLENCE CEREMONY AT THE PAPAL PALACE WHERE OVER 100 CARDINALS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE DELEGATIONS CONFIRMED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF TH POPE,THE HOLY SEE, THE VATICAN AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AND HAS BEEN WIDELY INTERPRETED AS A REMINDER TO THE CARDINAL ELECTORS THAT DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE AMONG THE CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED IN CHOOSING A NEW POPE.HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPE, TEXT, DEATHS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME15045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780338-0187
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780853/aaaabsjw.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c6a1fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1709091
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPE'S FUNERAL: ADDRESS TO FOREIGN DELEGATIONS RF : ROME 14940
TAGS: PFOR, XH, VT, (PAUL VI, POPE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c6a1fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014